

Ionizing Radiation Exposure in the United States

Source	Estimated average annual exposure in the U.S. population (millirem)
Natural sources	
Radon	200
Internal radiation	39
Cosmic radiation	31
Terrestrial radiation	28
Manmade:	
X-rays and nuclear medicine	50
Consumer products (including drinking water)	11
Miscellaneous	1
Total	360
<i>Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Radiation: Risks and Realities, August 1993.</i>	

The percentage contribution to the annual average exposure from various radiation sources is illustrated in the pie chart.

- Looking at the pie chart, what percentage of the annual average exposure comes from natural sources of radiation (radon, cosmic, terrestrial, internal)?

(83%)

- What is the percentage for manmade sources?

(17%)

- What is our annual internal exposure, in millirem?

(40 mrem or 39.6 millirem)

- What is the average exposure we get annually from radon and its decay products in the air we breathe in millirem?

(198 mrem or 200 mrem)

